

**SB0810-FIN\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brianna January

Position: FAV



## Senate Bill 810

### *Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program – Alterations*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance and Budget & Taxation Committees

Date: March 16, 2023

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 810. This bill would rename the Public School Opportunities Enrichment Program to the Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program and significantly increase the State's annual appropriation to the Program from \$3 million to \$8.5 million.

The Public School Opportunities Enrichment Program provides grants to the local school systems, community schools, and nonprofits to offset costs associated with providing out-of-school recreational programs. Counties are strong supporters of these programs and welcome additional State aid to help support them.

These programs provide students and families with safe and enriching opportunities during times when schools are closed, and students are out of classrooms. Importantly, these programs operate during out-of-school hours, like before and after school, on weekends, and during vacation and holiday periods. They specifically target periods of vulnerability when children are outside of the classroom and have few opportunities – times when they are at-risk of engaging in unsafe and harmful activities and behaviors.

The grants provided by the Program give Maryland students the opportunity to participate in a range of enriching activities and programs. SB 810's increased annual appropriation of these grants from \$3 million to \$8.5 million is significant and will allow counties to offer a greater number of these important programs and serve more children. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 810 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

# **SB810 - Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Progr**

Uploaded by: Demaune Millard

Position: FAV



## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 810

### Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program – Alterations

**To:** Chair Melony Griffith and Members of the Finance Committee  
**From:** Demaune A. Millard, President & CEO, Family League of Baltimore  
**Date:** March 16, 2023

The Family League of Baltimore (Family League) supports Senate Bill 810 as it would transfer the Public School Opportunities Enhancement Program from the State Department of Education to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. We also support renaming the Program - Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program, an educational and recreational enrichment program for children ages 4 to 19.

Family League understands the importance of having afterschool and mentoring programs available to youth across Baltimore City and the State. Giving parents and students resources for afterschool programs helps to provide youth with alternative activities to participate in once the school day is over. Parents often must leave work early to pick up their kids or struggle with securing after school care but enrolling them in these programs allows kids to stay in a safe environment that promotes learning in a safe environment. To ensure that these programs continue to run - appropriate funding is needed, which is why SB810 is important to ensure that the funding continues.

SB810 would rename the Public School Opportunity Enhancement (PSOE) to the Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program and move it to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. This move would allow for the grant program to be administered in consultation with the Local Management Boards. As the Local Management Board for Baltimore we currently have 43 Out of School Time (OST) programs serving over 2,300 students. Having the opportunity to continue serving the youth in Baltimore and across the state will continue to be beneficial to youth.

As the designated Local Management Board for the City of Baltimore, Family League works collaboratively to support data-informed, community-driven solutions to align resources to dismantle systemic barriers that limit the possibilities for children, families, and communities. Our policy focus is also guided by and in support of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth and Victim Services' Results for Child Well-Being. Through our strategic planning process, we have prioritized three of these results areas, focusing on the success of Baltimore's children in school; the economic stability of families; and the safety of communities for children, youth, and families. We support SB810 in particular because of its alignment with the result areas that work to ensure "Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families."

*For more information contact Keontae Kells, Executive Administrator [kkells@familyleague.org](mailto:kkells@familyleague.org)*

**MOST\_SB810\_FavorableAmend.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ellie Mitchell

Position: FWA



**Senate Bill 810 – Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program – Alterations**  
**Finance Committee**  
**Budget & Taxation Committee**  
**Position: Favorable with Amendments**  
**March 16, 2023**

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST is one of the fifty statewide networks supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and serves as Maryland's affiliate to the National Afterschool Association.

MENTOR Maryland | DC is the statewide affiliate of MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership in Maryland. Our shared mission is to increase both the quality and quantity of mentoring relationships. This is accomplished through support to on-the-ground mentoring programs to improve their quality, effectiveness, and scale while coalescing stakeholders to expand engagement and investment locally.

Afterschool, Summer, and Mentoring programs are critical supports, made even more important by the impact on learning from the last several years of COVID-19. Maryland remains in the bottom ten states for access to afterschool programs. In Maryland, unmet demand for afterschool programs has reached an all-time high, with nearly 390,000 children who would be enrolled in a program if one were available to them. As demand for afterschool in Maryland surges, parents see key benefits from afterschool, including keeping kids safe, helping them learn and grow, and providing peace of mind for working families. As families face barriers to participation, such as cost and accessibility, there is strong support behind public funding for afterschool programs in the state. Eighty-five percent of parents support public funding for afterschool and that support is strong across all party affiliations (America After 3 p.m., 2020).

Currently we are moving backwards rather than forwards in our state's support for youth serving programs. Several state funds that directly support after-school are at threat. LEAP grants (Learning in Extended Afterschool Program), funded at 4.5 million in FY23, were eliminated in the proposed FY24 budget. Public School Opportunity Enhancement - PSOE remains in the budget at just 2.5 million dollars.

Senate Bill 810 proposes to rename the Public-School Opportunity Enhancement grant to the Maryland Priority Out of School Time Program, move it to the Governor's Office for Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services and increase the grant program's appropriation to 8.5 million. SB 10 would help maintain level funding for youth development programs while making the program more accessible to a variety of community-based youth services providers.

In addition, part of this legislation is forward thinking. We hope and advocate that in the future, the Governor's Office for Children will be reestablished along with the Children's Cabinet and the new GOC will ultimately manage this grant program, and the appropriation will grow over time to be commensurate with the need and demand. Therefore, we support the amendments that direct the grant program specifically to the Children and Youth Division and require collaboration with the local management boards in administering the funds.

With these amendments we urge the committees to provide a favorable report for Senate Bill 810.

Ellie Mitchell

Executive Director, Maryland Out of School Time Network /Acting Executive Director, MENTOR Maryland | DC  
[emitchell@mostnetwork.org](mailto:emitchell@mostnetwork.org)/410-370-7498

**MOST\_SB810\_FavorableAmmend.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ellie Mitchell

Position: FWA



**Senate Bill 810 – Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program – Alterations**  
**Finance Committee**  
**Budget & Taxation Committee**  
**Position: Favorable**  
**March 16, 2023**

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**PGCex\_Support\_SB 810.pdf**

Uploaded by: Prince George's County Maryland

Position: FWA



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** Senate Bill 810 – Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program – Alterations

**SPONSOR:** Senator A. Washington

**HEARING DATE:** March 16, 2023

**COMMITTEE:** Finance

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS with Sponsor's Amendments Senate Bill 810**, which transfers the Public School Opportunities Enhancement Program from the State Department of Education to the Governor's Office and renaming the Program to be the Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program. This program provides educational and recreational enrichment programs for children ages 4 to 19. This bill also beginning in fiscal year 2024, alters the mandated appropriation to the Program to \$8,500,000 for each fiscal year.

The Maryland Out of School Time (MOST) Network's is a statewide youth development organization, dedicated to more and better opportunities in the out of school hours for all of Maryland's young people. They are leading voice for ensuring best practices in out-of-school programming with their widely accepted MOST Program Quality Standards. Stakeholders have placed so much confidence in these standards that the Maryland State Department of Education has used them to evaluate extended day and summer enhancement programming from nonprofits. The standards address a range of factors, including program design and accountability, the health and safety of participants, competent and professional staff, the program's environment being respectful and nurturing, and building partnerships with families and the community.

The MOST Network's main goal is to increase both the quantity and quality of after-school-hour programs in the state, and to ensure that access to them is equitable so that all Maryland youth have the same opportunities to reach their full potential. The MOST programs are believed to offer youth development resources where the children can obtain skills and qualities that will allow them to excel inside and outside of a traditional learning environment.

These programs are targeted to support students after school. These State supported programs aid a vital group of children that would otherwise be unsupervised afterschool. Children's access to enrichment activities is highly dependent on family income, having these programs aids low-income students who often trail substantially behind more-affluent peers, in terms of academic achievement and wraparound service availability. Reducing the time after school, the children are unsupervised, reduces their risk to engage in dangerous or illegal behaviors.

Students who participate in out-of-school-time learning programs often have a better knowledge retention rate, are more likely to excel in the classroom, and, according to studies, often have a more positive outlook on their own future compared to children who didn't participate. The problem we face is that funding and program availability is often lacking to keep up with demand. More funding for these programs directly impacts low-income students' ability to succeed.

Maryland still faces significant shortfalls in providing needed out-of-school programming to our students. The demand for afterschool programs in Maryland far surpasses the availability to the point that it leaves out roughly 390,000 children. That means for every one child in afterschool programing, there are three waiting to get in. Of the children unable to attend such programming, nearly 147,000 are unsupervised afterschool. And this is likely to only increase as over the past 10 years, as the number of children excluded from afterschool programming because of our inability to meet the demand has increased by nearly 93,000 children.

And this is not a controversial issue, according to a 2023 report just released in January, 80% of residents say afterschool programs are necessary community resources. And we know they are a tool to decrease juvenile criminal activity. Over the last few years, we have seen the rates of juvenile committing criminal activity increase and the age at which they begin this activity get younger. Last year, our County implemented a youth curfew in an effort to reduce instances of criminal activity among minors, and it was successful. But it only addresses a part of the problem we face. We need comprehensive solutions to crime reduction, which includes more than just enforcement or punishment, but investment. Providing resources to our youth is a vital tool in ensuring our youth don't get left behind. Afterschool programs are key to that goal.

However, 53% of afterschool programs report having an active waitlist – these are children that are waiting for resources, waiting for support, and waiting for our help. Funding for these programs helps us close the gaps and reach our youth, so they can reach their potential.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 810** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.